

BOOK REVIEW

A Handbook of Diseases of the Skin, by H. O. MACKEY. Ninth edition revised by JOHN P. MACKEY. 1968. Pp. 424. Macmillan, London. (30s.)

Since 1952, when the first edition was published, this book has been well known to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Originally, it was an attempt to present the basic and essential facts of dermatology in a small volume and it contained an outstanding collection of black and white photographs of a variety of common skin conditions. Inevitably, the size of the book has increased since the first edition and new and better photographs have been added. The ninth edition has been completely revised by Dr John P. Mackey, the son of the original author, and much of the text has been rewritten and brought up-to-date.

This book is essentially a volume for undergraduate students and general practitioners. It gives a comprehensive survey of dermatology. The photographs are mostly clear, well documented, and relevant to the text, all of which help to make it very readable. The presentation is necessarily dogmatic because space prohibits discussion,

but this is probably what the majority of its potential readers are seeking.

It is easy to criticize a book of this type. There are, nevertheless, a number of inaccuracies which should have been corrected by this stage. For example, it is claimed that a Herxheimer reaction is neutralized with Neutropen (penicillinase), and chlortetracycline is recommended as the best alternative to penicillin for those who are sensitive to it. Many would dispute the advice that all sero-negative new-born children should be given a course of penicillin if the mother was sero-positive. Warts form a large part of most dermatological practices and an increasing part of venereological practice, but the section on warts is short compared to the space devoted to some uncommon conditions.

Despite these and other minor criticisms, this is a very useful book, which largely achieves what it sets out to do, namely to provide students and practitioners with a readable and comprehensive text, illustrated with good pictures. It will also provide a valuable reference book and should be found on the shelves of all well-stocked libraries.

R. D. CATTERALL

DIPLOMA COURSE IN VENEREOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL, DEPARTMENT OF VENEREOLOGY

The course is full-time and lasts for three months. The courses commence at the beginning of January and April.

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- (2) The examination for the Diploma in the above subjects shall be held twice-yearly in March and June.
- (3) The fee for admission to the examination for the Diploma in Venereology shall be £6; the fee for the Diploma shall be £5.

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